

SDMS Doc ID 2018746

August 25, 1998

Rebecca Lynn Palmer  
State Historic Preservation Office  
100 Stewart Street  
Capital Complex  
Carson City, NV 89710

SUBJECT: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Cleanup of Mercury-Contaminated Soils in Lyon County, NV (Carson River Superfund Site)

Dear Ms. Palmer:

In your telephone messages this morning, you requested additional information related to EPA's Superfund Cleanup. Specifically, you asked for: 1) an update on the status of the cleanup; 2) additional information on our proposal to excavate into the fill material adjacent to the former Birdsall Mill in Dayton; 3) a data recovery plan for the artifacts found in the area designated MS001; 4) a determination of eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places for the homes proposed to be demolished in MS004; and 5) EPA procedures to ensure that historic preservation issues are fully addressed during the remainder of this cleanup project.

In response to these five items:

1) Status of Cleanup: Excavation and removal of contaminated soil from MS030 in Silver City has been completed; excavation at MS001 is in progress (except in the three areas in MS001 where historical artifacts were found and work has been suspended until we have an acceptable data recovery plan). No work has begun at MS002 or MS004. Tentatively, we expect work at MS002 to begin in early September and work at MS004 to begin in October.

2) Birdsall Mill: We will prepare and submit a test excavation plan for the Birdsall Mill. If you wish, we will arrange a field visit after submittal of the plan.

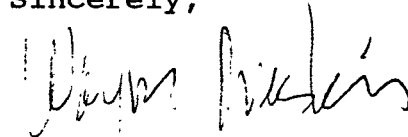
3) Data Recovery Plan for MS001: A data recovery plan will be hand-delivered to you today. We appreciate your commitment to respond to the plan by Friday.

4) Determination of Eligibility for the Four Homes and One Trailer in MS004: We will initiate research in order to make a determination of eligibility and submit our determination as soon as possible. As we discussed, the landowner has not yet made a decision whether she wants the demolition to proceed. We will not demolish the homes at MS004 until we have determined the homes' eligibility for the National Register (and, if appropriate, the effect of our proposed action) and allowed time for your office to respond.

5) Ensuring That Historic Preservation Issues are Fully Addressed: I will do my best to ensure good communication between our offices, to promptly inform you of any changes in the project, and continue to respond promptly and fully to your questions and comments.

If you need any additional information or have any recommendations or suggestions to offer on how we can better address historic preservation issues during this project, please inform me. My phone number is (415) 744-2256. I will be in Dayton and Carson City today and tomorrow, returning to my office on Friday, August 28. I apologize for not writing this letter on EPA letterhead, but I thought it best to send the letter today rather than wait until I return to my office on Friday.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Wayne Praskins", written in a cursive style.

Wayne Praskins  
USEPA Project Manager

cc: Alan Stanfill